

To Mrs. Chapman

Dear Madam,

I am exceedingly pleased & proud that you have honored me by a kind reply to my presumptuous offer of contributions to the Liberty Bells, the character of which I entirely mistook, as you have already learned I suppose, through a note of apology which I despatched as soon as I found out my mistake.

If you think the articles I sent of any value to the cause, pray make any use of them you please. If they are published in newspapers, I should like to have printed copies of them sent to me.

- but if in the Liberty Bell next year, I will purchase it here.

It will be unnecessary to send me on the volume for this year, as there are plenty here to be had. But if it is already despatched, I thank you for your trouble, & you shall hear from me soon.

Honoring you as I do, and have long done, I am gratified that you ask about myself, and I will reply with sincerity, & with the hope that what I say may not seem disrespectful.

A. L. Otis is not my own name but a nom de plume, and I have never, out of my immediate family, allowed it to be known whom that name represents. If it should ever be divulged accidentally, there will

be an end to all literary effort on  
my part. I should be paralyzed,  
and as much depends upon my  
continuing to write, I guard my  
secret zealously, & hope it will  
not be discovered. Knowing this  
I am sure you will be so kind  
as not to enquire of me of any-  
body - Philadelphians especially.

If this seems suspicious,  
and you doubt me - the articles  
must be sent back, and left unused.  
I shall be sorry not to aid the  
cause in that way, as I can do  
very little in any other - but I  
cannot help it.

I am a hearty well-  
wisher to the cause, & your example  
might well inspire self-forgetting  
zeal, but I do not possess that, &

<sup>Dec. 23</sup> 1857  
besides are not capable of taking  
any prominent part, so that I  
may well be left under the name  
I have chosen to assume, and there-  
fore I retain it in signing myself  
With grateful acknowledgments

Yours most respectfully

A. L. Otis.

Box 1613

Phil. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> /57